THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Government is keen to put an end to militancy and restore normalcy in the State, at the earliest. In order to bring the misguided youth into the mainstream efforts are being made to create more employment opportunities for them. Discussions were recently held with various Government Agencies in this regard. Steps have also been taken to reactivate the industrial economic and developmental activities in the State. Discussions were recently held in Delhi and Srinagar with various Central and State Government Departments and officials with a view to achieving these objectives. Efforts are also being made to activate the local Administration and the grievance redressal machinery. All these initiatives have had a positive impact. At the same time pressure is being mounted on the militants to reduce the fear of the gun. Significant successes have been achieved in this regard during the past few months.

Demand of rupees one thousand crore by Haryana for its new capital

357. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Haryana Government have demanded one thousand crores of rupees for the development of its new capital in Panchkula;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) whether the amount demanded would be adequate enough to complete the construction work keeping in view the annual rate of inflation at around ten per cent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Flaring of Gas

358. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantum of natural gas being flared in the country during the last two years;

(b) whether Government have carried out a comparative study of loss due to gas flaring;

(c) if so, the results of the study; and

(d) the plan of Government to reduce flaring of gas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) In 1991-92 and 1992-93 approximately 11.2 MMSCMD and 5.08 MMSCMD respectively of gas was flared.

(b) and (c) At the relevant selling prices of gas, the estimated loss due to flaring was approximately Rs. 520 crores and Rs. 225 crores respectively.

(d) Additional compression and transportation facilities in the Western offshore region, in Gujarat and in Assam; underground storage of gas in Assam; and increased utilisation of gas by consumers to whom gas has been allocated in Assam are some of the steps being taken to reduce the flaring of gas.

Import of Gas from West Asia

359. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any plan is under Government's consideration to import gas from West Asia;

(b) if so what are the reasons for import of gas when a large quantity of gas is being flared up daily:

(c) what are the details of the proposed gas import from West Asia; and

(d) what would be the burden of its import on the country's Balance of Payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) While the registered demand for gas with the Gas Authority of India Limited is over 260 MMSCMD, the maximum projected indigenous availability of gas, including the gas that is currently being flared, is approximately 85 MMSCMD. The proposal to import natural gas is being considered to bridge the gap between the projected availability and the large demand.

(c) and (d) The proposal is only at a conceptual stage.

Retendering of Bhatinda-Kandla Pipeline

360. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
CHOWDHRY HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether new tenders have been called for laying of the Bhatinda-Kandla Pipeline;

(b) whether retendering has been done to help a particular foreign company; and

(c) what are the reasons for the retendering?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) and (b) No retendering for laying of the Kandla-Bhatinda Pipeline has been resorted to.

(c) Does not arise.

Production and Import of petroleum products

361. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated production of crude oil in the country during the current year;

(b) the estimated import of crude and petroleum products diesel and kerosene in the current year, stating figures separately in each case;

(c) whether the oil import bill will be higher this year as compared to last year; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) The target of indigenous production of crude oil during the year 1993-94 is 27.17 million tonnes.

(b) Government have approved the import of 28.900 MMT of crude oil and 15.137 MMT of petroleum products during the year 1993-94.

(c) and (d) The total value of these imports will depend upon the actual imports and the price prevalent in the international market.

Pending application for allotment of LPG agencies

362. DR. RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV 'RAVI':
SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of applications pending for allotment of L.P.G. Gas Agencies throughout the country;

(b) what are the details of applications pending with the Government from Gujarat and Bihar States; and

(c) by when these applications will be cleared off?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA): (a) Applications are being in-